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Prepared By: James LaBar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Expresses support for Federal Aviation Administration initiative to certify safe unleaded aviation fuel.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Aviation gasoline, or “avgas,” as it is commonly known, is utilized in general aviation aircraft that are powered by internal combustion reciprocating piston engines. Avgas is a leaded fuel and its combustion results in toxic air emissions of lead. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the operation of general aviation aircraft is the greatest source of lead emissions in Oregon. Lead that is emitted into the air can be inhaled or, after it settles out of the air, ingested, and ingestion of lead that has settled onto surfaces is the main way children are exposed to lead that was originally released in the air. Once in the body, lead is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, resulting in a broad range of health effects, leading public health officials to conclude that there is no safe level of exposure to lead. Exposure to low levels of lead early in life has been linked to effects on a person’s intelligence quotient, learning, memory and behavior.

Lead has been successfully removed from many consumer goods, including household paint and toys. The Environmental Protection Agency adopted a successful program that phased lead out of automobile gasoline nationwide in 1996, while avgas remains a public health threat due to its high lead content and toxic air emissions. Lead content in avgas is regulated at the federal level and all fuels for air transportation must be certified as safe by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Federal Aviation Administration, together with the Environmental Protection Agency, has developed a goal to identify a viable unleaded avgas by 2018, which will ultimately eliminate lead emissions from piston engine aircraft.

This memorial shall be sent to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.